

## Abstract

An overvoltage protection means is ~~described, having a first electrode (1), having a second electrode (2), having a breakdown spark gap formed between the two electrodes (1, 2), and having a housing (3) which holds the electrodes (1, 2); when,~~ When the breakdown spark gap is ignited, an arc (4) ~~forming is formed~~ between the two electrodes (1, 2) within the discharge space (5) which connects the two electrodes (1, 2). ~~As claimed in the invention the~~ The overvoltage protection means arrangement has an especially high line follow current extinguishing capacity, but can nevertheless be easily built, and ~~in that~~ the discharge space (5) is made such that it runs at least partially transversely and/or opposite the direction of the electrical field of the prevailing line voltage so that the distance to be overcome by the arc (4) between the two electrodes (1, 2) has a transverse component relative to the electrical field  $E_x$ .